

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PM-04 IGA-02 DODE-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 /071 W

----- 005275

R 211541Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2326

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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DEPT PASS AFR/SFWA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, EAID, UV

SUBJ: PAN AFRICAN AIR INDUSTRIES (PAAI)

REF: STATE 229545

1. IN RECENT CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR, FINANCE MINISTER KALMOGO REFERRED TO VISIT BY MS RAZI OF PAAI (OUAGA 2734). HE SAID THAT HE DID NOT AGREE WITH URGENCY DESCRIBED BY MS RAZI ESPECIALLY SINCE THERE WAS AS YET NO INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THIS OPERATION AND GOUV HAS NOT IN POSITION TO PROVIDE BACK UP NECESSARY IF PAAI WAS TO BEGIN OPERATION IN JANUARY 1977. FURTHERMORE, GOUV WAS IN MUCH BETTER POSITION THAT PAAI TO OBTAIN SEEDS, FERTILIZER AND PESTICIDES ON FAVORABLE TERMS. HE INTIMATED THAT HE HAD TURNED DOWN MS RAZI'S PLEA FOR DEPOSIT OF DOLLARS TWO MILLION IN CHEMICAL BANK IN PARIS.

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2. KALMOGO ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT TYPE OF ACTIVITIES

ENVISAGED BY PAAI COULD BE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO UPPER VOLTA'S DEVELOPMENT PROVIDED IT WAS PROPERLY PLANNED AND EXECUTED. BECAUSE GROWING SEASON FOR VEGETABLES IN UPPER VOLTA CORRESPONDS TO SLACK SEASON IN EUROPE, THERE WERE GREAT POSSIBILITIES FOR EXPORT BY AIR. HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF UTA AND AIR AFRIQUE "STRANGLEHOLD", RATE FOR AIR FREIGHT WERE NOW PROHIBITIVE. PAAI COULD CHANGE ALL THAT BUT HE BELIEVED IT HAD TO BE A JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN GOUV AND PAAI.

3. RE PARA 6 REFTTEL, KALMOGO SAID THAT THE PURCHASE OF A C-130 IN THE UNITED STATES WAS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE GOUV WITH A POTENTIAL FOR AIR FREIGHT OPERATIONS, EXPECIALLY EXPORTS OF VEGETABLES AND MEATS TO EUROPE AND THE COAST. IT WAS UNFORTUNATE THAT, FOR BUDGETARY REASONS, TRASACTION WAS BEING PRESENTED AS MILITARY SALE. EVENTUALLY, IF GOUV WAS ABLE TO OBTAIN THE PLANE AND THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND IF PAAI GOT OFF THE GROUND, GOUV MIGHT PLEASE ITS C-130 TO PAAI. AT ANY RATE, HE SAID, IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO PURHCASE THE C-130 THROUGH AIR VOLTA, THE GOUV-OWNED CIVILIAN FIRLINE, IN WHICH CASE USG MIGHT FIND IT EASEIR TO APPROVE THE SALE AND PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

4. EMBASSY AND CDO WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S AND AID/W'S REACTION TO POSSIBILITY MENTIONED BY KALMOGO IN LAST SENTENCE PARA 3 ABOVE.
GRAHAM

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